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Educational Philosophy

Philosophy in education is a tricky thing, as it is hard to fit everybody into one philosophical view. Personally, there are a couple of views that I find ideal when it comes to education. The ideas held by constructivists and behaviorists are the idea sets that appeal to me most when it comes to constructing my own educational philosophies. I do find parts of behaviorism to be undesirable when it comes to my personal preference, but I do fully believe in constructivism and the motivational tactics, along with a few other things, of behaviorists appeal to me and my ideal set of philosophical thought.

If I were to chose just one set of educational philosophies, I would definitely chose constructivism. This school of thought stuck out to me the most purely because of the definition; “an educational philosophy that emphasizes hands-on, activity-based teaching and learning during which students develop their own frames of thought”. Being a hands-on, kinesthetic learner myself, I would chose this school of thought over the others because it is most closely related to the way I prefer to do my learning. One reason I enjoy this school of philosophy is because of the way it allows for individual thought to be formed rather than just having the teacher give students information and the students recite it back to them. I think that encouraging individual thoughts and creativeness through hands on thinking is an outstanding way to teach and I think it is effective. Another school of thought that I like is behaviorism.

The thing that I like most about behaviorism is the concept of reinforcement. I think that rewarding students for positive behavior truly shows results in getting the students to continue that behavior, and presenting undesirable outcomes for negative behaviors is effective in stifling the behavior in a student. While I do not love the teaching style associated with behaviorism, I believe the motivation, classroom climate, and discipline approaches that behaviorists follow are quite effective in a classroom setting. To me, behaviorism is not the perfect philosophic view on education, but I do find many parts of it to be effective which is why it would be my second choice of preferred philosophies.

While it can be a struggle to find which educational philosophy everybody fits into, and while it is hard to fit a person into one single school of thought, combining different aspects of different philosophies is an easy way to make an ideal set of educational philosophies for one person. For myself, I find almost all of constructivism and some aspects of behaviorism, including motivation and classroom climate, to be the most effective ways of teaching and running a classroom. This may be influenced by the type of learner I am, but I find constructivism and behaviorism to be the best for myself.